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**FORMER RESIDENT OF RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE PLEADS
GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT AND BANK FRAUD CHARGES**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Kenneth Jones, the Postal Inspector-in-Charge of the Boston Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service, announced that Erico Davias, a former resident of Rye, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty to bank fraud and identify theft in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire this afternoon.

According to statements made by a prosecutor during a court hearing, Davias, age 54, committed the bank fraud offense by transferring and attempting to transfer more than \$400,000 from bank accounts belonging to other people at other banks into certificate of deposit accounts he had established, through the internet, at Provident Bank, a federally insured bank located in Tilton, New Hampshire.

The prosecutor also explained that Davias committed the identify theft offense by using another person's name and personal identification to obtain a credit card, which he (Davias) used to purchase products and services totaling approximately \$4,600.

Davias is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Court Judge Paul Barbadoro on June 18, 2003. The maximum statutory prison sentence for identity theft is 15 years. The maximum statutory prison sentence for bank fraud is 30 years. Davias could also be fined up to \$250,000 for the identity theft offenses, and \$1 million for the bank fraud offense.

After Davias pleaded guilty, U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, "This case is an example of our commitment to vigorously enforce federal criminal laws that are meant to deter all forms of criminal fraud." This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Robert Kinsella.